

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

In accordance with new independent claim 50, a critical feature of the present invention is claimed in independent claim 50. In accordance with the present invention the measurement of forces in the attachment flange near the screw holes (8) provide a fast and exact measurement. Claim 50 claims "...at least one strain sensor arranged near the attachment flange wherein the at least one strain sensor is provided on the housing and the at least one strain sensor is arranged near to attachment screw holes of the attachment flange". Dependent claim 52-68 set forth further critical features of the present invention. Dependent claim 52 sets forth the radial circumferential groove on the centering flange which contains a dampening element. Dependent claims 57 and 65 further define the dampening element located in a radial indent. Claim 59 sets forth further structure of a radial indent forming a constriction on the outer casing of the housing. None of these features are taught, disclosed or rendered obvious by the prior art.

U.S. Patent 5,015,926 is not relevant to the now claimed subject matter of claims 50-68. The '926 patent does not teach or suggest the present invention. In the '926 patent there is a separate speed and motion sensing unit after the gear reduction unit (15) which detects the force and is displayed on display (90). This is totally different from the claimed subject matter of claim 50 and 68 as currently pending.

U.S. Patent 6,066,907 discloses a starter box having a housing and an end frame. There is nothing to suggest the overall structure currently claimed in claims 50-68. At best,

the '907 patent describes a modification of an elastic member located between the housing and a cover (6).

U.S. Patent 4,724,711 is likewise defective. The '711 document discloses a torque detector whereby the torque is applied between an input shaft and an output shaft. Angular displacement is produced between the input shaft and the output shaft as described in the specification and shown for example in Figures 4-8. This structure has nothing to do with the claimed subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that the claimed subject matter clearly distinguishes over the cited and applied prior art references.

The early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Appl. SN 10/549,459
Amdt. Dated August 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2007

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 9, 2007